

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Department web site provides many details about the course. Below are a range of questions received by potential applicants so they have been re-presented here with answers to assist you further. They are grouped under the following headings:

Admissions; Fees; When & where are classes; On the programme; Miscellaneous

Admissions

How many places are there on the course each year?

There is no upper limit currently set. If your application is of the required standard you will be offered a place. The current versions of the programmes are quite new but we expect approximately 18-24 students on the MSc G&MS per year and 8-12 on the MSc GT&C. Several courses are taken by both programmes, so classes of over 30 are possible.

I am an international student but don't have IELTS or TOEFL English language qualifications - do I need them?

Yes, we require you to have met a certain standard of English language ability (IELTS 6.5 or equivalent) so that you are able to understand the course which is delivered in English; and also so that you can prepare coursework and sit examinations in English.

I have special needs. Can I still take the course?

Yes. Your particular circumstances will be assessed by our special needs officer to determine your requirements. We will make every effort to ensure you have appropriate support to accommodate your needs.

Can I visit University of Glasgow to have a look around?

Yes. There are a number of open days every year which are well advertised on the web site. Additionally, you can make an appointment to visit by e-mailing the Admissions tutor (geomatics@ges.gla.ac.uk).

Will I be interviewed before I am offered a place?

In general, we do not interview applicants but you may be offered an interview if you have special circumstances (e.g. no formal undergraduate qualifications).

I do not have an undergraduate degree - can I still take the programme?

In certain circumstances you may be offered a place based on your other experience and qualities. For instance, if you have a good level of work experience in a Geomatics or GIS related area and wish to gain an academic qualification you may be offered a place. We review every application on its own merits and a crucial component is evidence of your enthusiasm and commitment to the course. In some cases we may recommend you do introductory courses as CPD and offer a formal place on the programme subject to performance on these.

I didn't do well in my first degree - can I still take the programme?

There may be good reasons why you didn't perform well in your first degree. We look at each application individually and judge it on its own merits. If you show enthusiasm, commitment and possess work-related experience, for instance, this can help offset a weaker academic background. Often in such circumstances we offer admission to the PG Certificate or PG

Diploma in the first instance; if you do well you can transfer to the next stage and complete the MSc with no additional time or cost.

Will you need references?

Yes - we always require two references (at least one academic) which **MUST** be sent at the same time as your application. You will not be offered a place without references.

Fees

Is there any discount available for international students who have been resident in the UK for a number of years?

No. Fees are based on your nationality or residence status. We have no control over this.

What are the fees for EU students?

EU students pay the home (UK) student fees rate.

Are there any scholarships or grants available to help with the programme fees?

Yes, there are a limited number available for full-time students (home, EU and international). Most students have fees paid by themselves or their own sponsor. There is no reason why students cannot apply for other grants themselves and we have had a number of students successfully fund the course through this route.

I am unable to afford the course - is there any way I can still take it?

No. The course has a set fee. Sorry - it isn't free!

Will I be able to pay for the course in instalments?

Yes. Full time students can make arrangements with the Finance Office to pay for the programme in 3 instalments. Part-time students pay for the courses taken each semester.

If I leave the course, do I still get charged the course fee?

It depends when you leave. There is a cut-off date during Semester one for full-time students. If you leave before that date then you will not be charged. If you leave after the date you will be charged. The date is announced each year.

What happens if I fail to pay?

If you miss an instalment you will be suspended from studies until you have made the payment. This includes being suspended from using computers and being able to log on to the University network. If you remain a debtor the University will with-hold any qualification you are awarded until the debt is clear.

When & where are classes?

When is the start date?

The course normally starts mid September with an enrolment day and an induction day. Semester one then starts the following Monday.

How long is the course?

The PG Certificate full-time takes 1 semester, September – December;
The PG Diploma full-time takes 2 semesters, September – May;

The MSc full-time lasts a full year - September to August. You have two semesters followed by the period May-September to complete your dissertation/project.

Can I start the programme at any time of the year?

No. The programme has one intake in September. It is possible for those working in the industry to take most courses individually as CPD. Normally these would not count towards an award.

Can I do the courses by Distance Learning?

Currently neither MSc is available by Distance Learning.

Can I do courses in the evenings?

No – currently all classes are timetabled between 9:00 & 5:00, Monday to Friday.

Can the timetable be changed to accommodate my availability?

No. Whilst we appreciate many students have employment commitments, the timetable is fixed and classes are scheduled to take place on certain days of the week which cannot be changed.

What will be my timetable for the taught part of the programme?

Each course is taught on 1 day of the week for 6 weeks, with the expected days shown:

Semester 1 A	Monday	Fundamentals of Geomatics I
	Tuesday	Principles of Land Surveying
	Thursday	Principles of Cartographic Design & Production
	Friday	Principles of Geographic Information Systems
Semester 1B	Monday	Fundamentals of Geomatics II
	Tuesday	Surveying instrumentation and methods
	Thursday	Visualisation & map use
	Friday	Principles of photogrammetry & remote sensing
Semester 2A	Monday	Geodesy & GNSS / Internet & Mobile GIS
	Tuesday	Hydrographic surveying
	Thursday	Applied GIS
	Friday	Land Information Systems
Semester 2B	Monday	Topics in Geomatics (some options)
	Tuesday	Engineering surveying
	Wednesday	Topics in Geomatics (some options)
	Thursday	NSDI & Land Administration
	Friday	Research & Professional Issues

On the programme

If I am doing an MSc full-time, how many modules do I take per Semester?

There are two semesters and you take 6 modules per semester normally attending classes 3 days per week.

If I am taking the MSc programme full-time, do classes take place on 3 whole days?

Yes. Course are timetabled to have all formal classes in 1 day per week. Additional time is required to complete course work, revision, etc., but this is not timetabled. Occasionally, depending on numbers and facilities, additional practical sessions may be run on an alternative day.

If I am taking the MSc course part-time, how many courses do I take per year?

You take 1-6 course per Semester in each year (to add up to 12 modules in total over up to 3 years). We recommend that 4 courses are taken in the first semester (attending 2 days per week).

How many hours of work is each course?

Each module is equivalent to approximately 100 hours of work. This can be made up in different ways and varies from course to course, but a large part of each is self-study.

If I cannot attend lectures due to work commitments can I take a taught courses in Distance Learning mode?

No. If there are taught classes you will be expected to attend.

How many optional courses can I choose?

Currently there are no options in either programme. The Topics in Geomatics course involves choosing 2 topics from 6-10 choices each year.

What assessment can I expect?

All semester 1 courses are assessed by a mix of formal end of semester examination and coursework (a mix of practicals, exercises, reports, written work, etc) (normally 25:75 or 60:40). Semester 2 courses may have a mix of exam and coursework or be entirely coursework.

Will I be able to access laboratories out of hours?

The Department is open from 8am-5pm Mon-Fri. MSc students also have access out of normal hours.

Can I access course materials remotely?

Yes. As long as you have a PC with an internet connection registered students can access Moodle, the University's on-line Learning Management system. Each course has its own area on Moodle that contains lecture notes, coursework details, data, etc. This is available 24 hours a day.

Can I get any software to install on my own PC?

You can get a number of packages to install including ArcGIS, however most software is restricted to University computers.

Are there any course text books?

Key course text books for semester 1 courses are included in the fees and will be distributed at the start of each course. You will also be given reading lists at the start of each course.

Miscellaneous

Do you have any extra-curricula activities?

Yes, the Department of Geographical & Earth Sciences and Geography run a weekly research seminar series which you may attend. We regularly host CPD evening talks for the Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors which you are encouraged to attend. We also invite guest speakers from industry regularly and organise attendance at relevant conferences and meetings in Scotland.

Do you have links with employers?

Yes, we have an enviable reputation for high quality Geomatics education and graduates since the mid 1960s. The Geomatics industry have provided significant funding for the current MSc programmes. Employers often come to us to pass on job adverts to our students and graduates.